



6/27/80
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520

AT/99

6/27/80

Argentine Prisoners Project Committee
Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith
11300 North Central Expressway, Suite 314
Dallas, Texas 75243

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for your letter of June 10, 1980 in which you express concern and make inquiry about certain individuals in Argentina. In regard to those individuals named specifically in your inquiry, I regret the Department has limited information.

In the case of Ms. Debora Benshoam, the Department is aware of a prior inquiry made on her behalf by the Institute for Research on Educational Finance and Governance. To date, we have not been informed of a reply by the Argentine Government.

The Department has been requested to make inquiries concerning Mr. Dario Bedne. Upon presentation of his case to the Argentine Foreign Office Working Group on Human Rights, our Embassy was informed in February, 1979 that there was no record or information on Mr. Bedne. Similarly, in its most recent formal response to our inquiries about the welfare and whereabouts of Mr. Daniel Rus, the Argentine Minister of Foreign Affairs reiterated its reply that no record exists of his arrest nor information about his whereabouts.

You may know, in the past there has been considerable interest in the U.S. in Mr. Chorni's case. Reflecting that interest, in October, 1978 and February, 1979 our Embassy requested information from the Argentine Foreign Ministry concerning his welfare. The Ministry replied that the Argentine Government had no record of his detention nor any information regarding his whereabouts.

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s): _____

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full

☐ Classify as _____ ☐ Extend as _____ ☐ Downgrade to _____

Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

85 D366

59-91-0190

As is the case of Mr. Chorni, there has also been considerable interest in the status of Mr. Ruben Haber. Inquiries made by our Embassy at the request of several U.S. Senators and Congressmen reveal that on September 6, 1979 Mr. Haber submitted another right of option request to Argentine authorities. Unfortunately, his request was again denied on January 8, 1980.

In reference to the status of Rafael Rey, the following information is available: Mr. Rey was absolved of all charges against him on August 30, 1977 but is still being held under the National Executive Power. Our Embassy has an application in Mr. Rey's behalf for consideration for parole into the U.S. under the Hemispheric Parole Program. However, we have not been able to obtain permission from the Argentine government to allow a U.S. consular officer to interview Mr. Rey at the place of detention to determine his eligibility for parole. In conjunction with the last permission denial, the Argentine Foreign Office informed us that Mr. Rey had initiated an option request on July 31, 1979. Unfortunately, his request was denied.

The Argentine Foreign Office has also informed our Embassy that Mr. Schprejer has filed a right of option petition to leave Argentina. His petition is still pending.

Unfortunately, in regard to the welfare and location of Padillo Tiburcio, Jorge Arrieta, Jose Daniel, Alejandra Jaimovich, Patricia and Adriana Mosso, Isaac Rudnik, and Abraham Mochman, the Department has no information.

We appreciate your interest in the cases of those Argentine citizens being held under the National Executive Power, and would like to assure you that the U.S. Government remains firm in its efforts to make clear our concern about human rights conditions in Argentina and to seek ways to persuade the Argentine Government to make improvements.

We will maintain our interest in the aforementioned

cases and should we receive new information we will contact you.

Sincerely,

Patricia M. Derian

Clearance: HA:RGraham
ARA/ECA:JAndre